

MOBILE AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM WITH REDUCED AUTHENTICATION DELAY

Abstract of the Invention

Many examples exist of a mobile node moving between the operational zones of multiple network access points or base stations. To minimize delay in re-authenticating with the network through a new base station, an additional form authenticated access mode called "credential authenticated" access is provided. The mobile unit is fully authenticated in the first base station (e.g., the user has logged in and paid for service). Thereafter, the first base unit transmits a "credential" to the mobile node that may be used by other base stations to establish trust with the mobile node prior to full re-authentication. Upon entering the operational zone of the second base station, the mobile node can transmit the credential to the second base station, which may accept the credential and allow access by the mobile node to the network through the second base station before full authentication has completed.